

# ERP Fact Sheet

January 2006



This Fact Sheet describes how Edwards AFB is proposing to deal with contamination at the South Air Force Research Laboratory.

## Air Force Seeks Public Comments on Laboratory Cleanup Plan

**T**he Air Force is asking the public to comment on proposed cleanup plans for contamination in groundwater beneath the southern portion of the Air Force Research Laboratory (South AFRL) at Edwards Air Force Base.

Several alternative cleanup plans are described in an Air Force report, entitled *Proposed Plan for Cleanup of Groundwater at the South Air Force Research Laboratory – Sites 37, 120, 133 (Operable Unit 4) and 321 (Operable Unit 9), Edwards Air Force Base*.

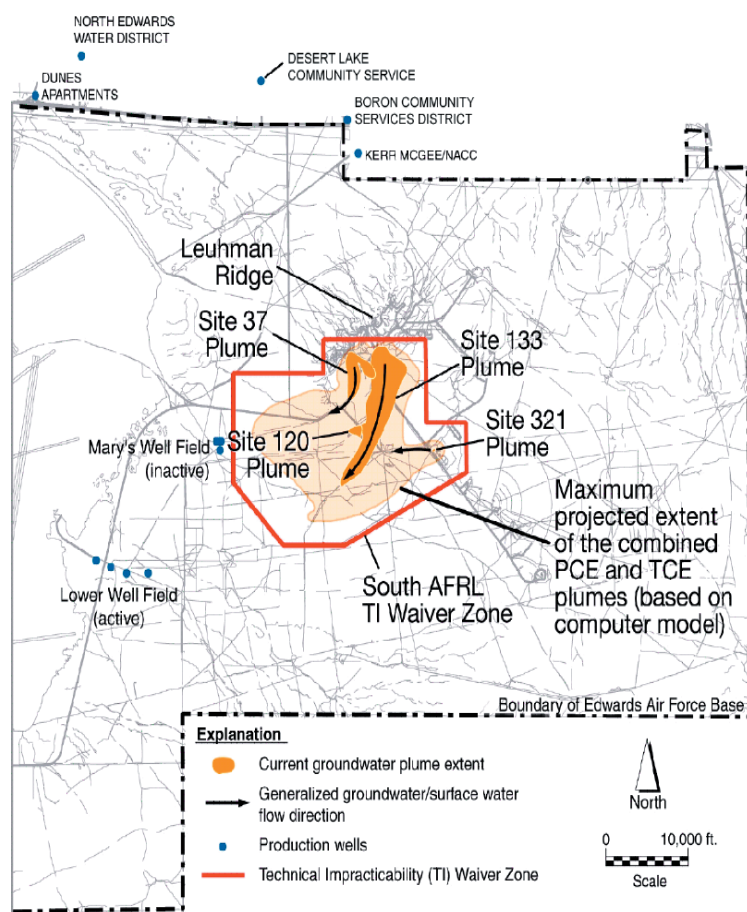
This 25-page document describes the alternatives being considered by the Air Force and its regulatory agencies to address contamination in the groundwater beneath four main sites: Site 37, Site 120, Site 133 and Site 321.

These sites are located on the southern side of the Leuhman Ridge escarpment where most AFRL activity takes place. The sites are described in detail within the Proposed Plan. Contamination from these sites is currently moving slowly toward the center of the base, away from the boundaries.

The major contaminants at these four sites are the chemicals tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). These solvents were used for years to clean grease off engines and other

items at the South AFRL.

Both chemicals are hard to remove from the ground because they are heavier than water and sink in groundwater. The underground geology of the South AFRL is composed of a layer of sand on top of cracked and fractured bedrock. Removing chemicals and groundwater from this bedrock is extremely difficult.



*The South AFRL technical impracticability waiver area and the projected maximum spread of the contaminants.*

### Public Meeting

Date: April 25, 2006

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Comments to:

Gary Hatch

5 E. Popson Ave., Bldg. 2650A  
Edwards AFB, Calif. 92324-8060

E-mail: gary.hatch@edwards.af.mil

## Preferred Alternative

The Proposed Plan highlights the alternative preferred by the Air Force (with regulatory approval) to monitor the groundwater movement and limit the future use of the land through land use controls in an 18-square-mile area. Currently, there is no technology for the efficient, cost-effective removal of contaminated groundwater from the cracked bedrock in which it resides.

This preferred alternative requires a Technical Impracticability waiver for some environmental cleanup rules and regulations. (These environmental rules and regulations are called Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements, or ARARs.) The waiver is being sought from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

This plan and four other alternatives are described in detail within the Proposed Plan, starting on page 16.

The plan evaluates all five alternatives against nine criteria, or standards, set up in the environmental regulation called the *Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation, and Liability Act, of 1980*, or Superfund law. A simplified table showing the alternatives versus the criteria is located on page 21 of the Proposed Plan.

## Public Participation and Comments

The Air Force provides information regarding the cleanup of South AFRL to the public through the Restoration Advisory Board, the Administrative Record file for the site, the Environmental

Management website (<http://www.edwards.af.mil/penvmng/index-toc.html>), and the monthly publication **Report to Stakeholders**.

## More Information Available

The Air Force encourages the public to gain a more complete understanding of South AFRL and the cleanup activities that were conducted at there. All documents that the base used to make decisions about cleanup at the South AFRL are in the base's administrative record. If you would like to view the full administrative record, you must make an appointment with Gary Hatch during regular business hours. Contact Mr. Hatch at:

95 ABW/PAE

Attn: Gary Hatch

5 E. Popson Ave, Bldg. 2650A

Edwards AFB, CA 93524-8060

Phone: (661) 277-1454

Fax: (661) 277-6145

E-mail: [Gary.Hatch@edwards.af.mil](mailto:Gary.Hatch@edwards.af.mil)

Hours: By appointment only,  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To view a subset of decision documents, you may also visit one of the other four Information Repository locations listed in the box below.

## To Make a Comment

Comments can be made at the public meetings or you can mail, e-mail, or fax your comments on the South AFRL Proposed Plan to Gary Hatch using the contact information above. A form is provided on page 25 of the Proposed Plan, but written comments may be in any form.

## How to Get More Information

For more information on the underground contamination at the South AFRL, technical documents may be reviewed at the following Information Repositories.

Edwards AFB Library  
5 W. Yeager Blvd.  
Building 2665  
Edwards AFB, Calif.  
(661) 275-2665

Los Angeles County Public Library  
601 W. Lancaster Blvd.  
Lancaster, Calif.  
(661) 948-5029

Kern County Public Library  
Wanda Kirk Branch  
3611 Rosamond Blvd.  
Rosamond, Calif.  
(661) 256-3236

Col. Vernon P. Saxon, Jr.  
Aerospace Museum  
26962 Twenty Mule Team Road  
Boron, Calif.  
(760) 762-6600

To obtain a copy of the  
OU4 Proposed Plan, contact:  
95 ABW/PAE  
Attn: Gary Hatch  
5 E. Popson Ave., Bldg. 2650A  
Edwards AFB, CA 93524-8060  
Phone: (661) 277-1454  
Fax: (661) 277-6145  
E-mail: [Gary.Hatch@edwards.af.mil](mailto:Gary.Hatch@edwards.af.mil)